

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

Date: March 15, 1966

NAME: York Creek COUNTY: Mendocino County

STREAM SECTION: Partial FROM: mouth TO: 2½ miles upstream LENGTH: 6-8 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO: West branch of the Russian River TWP: 16 N R: 12W SEC: ~~33~~ 32

OTHER NAMES: none RIVER SYSTEM: _____

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal survey and information from local residents.

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
LOCATION
RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Watershed
Immediate Drainage Basin
Altitude (Range)
Gradient
Width
Depth
Flow (Range)
Velocity
Bottom
Spawning Areas
Pools
Shelter
Barriers
Diversions
Temperatures
Food
Aquatic Plants
Winter Conditions
Pollution
Springs
FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
OTHER VERTEBRATES
FISHING INTENSITY
OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
ACCESSIBILITY
OWNERSHIP
POSTED OR OPEN
IMPROVEMENTS
PAST STOCKING
GENERAL ESTIMATE
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
SKETCH MAP
REFERENCES AND MAPS

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - On March 15, 1966, York Creek was surveyed on foot from the mouth to the North State Street Bridge and by car and jeep for about 2 miles west of highway 101 by Dave Netherby and Kevin Rockwood. The southern branch was observed while the north branch was not.

LOCATION - York Creek empties into the West Branch of the Russian River approximately 1½ miles from the fork of the East and West branches of the Russian River.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - York Creek is a spawning and nursery tributary to the Russian River and the Pacific Ocean.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed & Immediate Drainage Basin - York Creek has its watershed in a mountain forest with vegetation composed of oak, pine, and redwood trees, etc. The lower stream flows through pastureland with scattered oak trees. The drainage basin is "V"-shaped in the headwaters leveling off toward the mouth. There is very little shade and cover along the lower reaches of this stream due to this relatively small stream in a wide basin.

Altitude - The altitude of this stream ranged from 640 feet at the mouth to 2,321 feet at the headwaters.

Width - The average width was 15 feet with a range of 5-25 feet.

Depth - The average depth was 8 inches with a range of 3 inches to 4 feet.

Flow - Measured approximately ¾ mile from the mouth with pigmy meter at 21.82 cfs.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - In the lower areas, the bottom consists of rubble (30%), gravel (60%) sand (5%), and silt (5%).

Spawning Areas - The spawning areas were good extending as far as the falls, with gravel ranging from pea size to 2 inches in diameter. There has been some silting in of this gravel caused by slides and winter flows, but the flow is quickly cleaning the basin.

Pools - The pools, for the most part, were long and narrow, averaging 2-4 feet wide, 1-2 feet deep and 10-20 feet long caused by the digging action of the current. There is a wide, deep, pool in which some fish spend the summer just below the falls.

Shelter - The shelter is scarce in the section of stream that we surveyed. What shelter there was consisted of fallen trees and undercut banks, in a few parts 10 feet high.

Barriers - Boulders for a falls approximately ¾ miles from mouth on the southern branch. This is the upstream limits for anadromous fish, for none have ever gotten above here.

Food - Seemed to be adequate; stoneflies, mayflies, etc.

Winter Conditions - York Creek gets several feet deep and widens out during winter rains.

Pollution - The water was clear and apparently free from pollution.

Springs - This stream begins its flow high in the mountains near the Orr Springs Road and reportedly has a few springs emptying their flows into it.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Silver Salmon and Steelhead and/or Rainbow trout were reported seen in York Creek by several local residents. However, they stated this year that they observed only 6-8 Steelhead and that these were covered with bruises from the trip upstream. Suckers have also been seen by local residents.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Sheep and cattle graze in the lower area and deer are present in the mountains.

FISHING INTENSITY - Quite light - used only by friends of the York brothers.

ACCESSIBILITY - Turn off North State Street about 3 miles north of Ukiah to the York Ranch. A jeep trail runs in back of the ranch for about 2 miles, they one must walk.

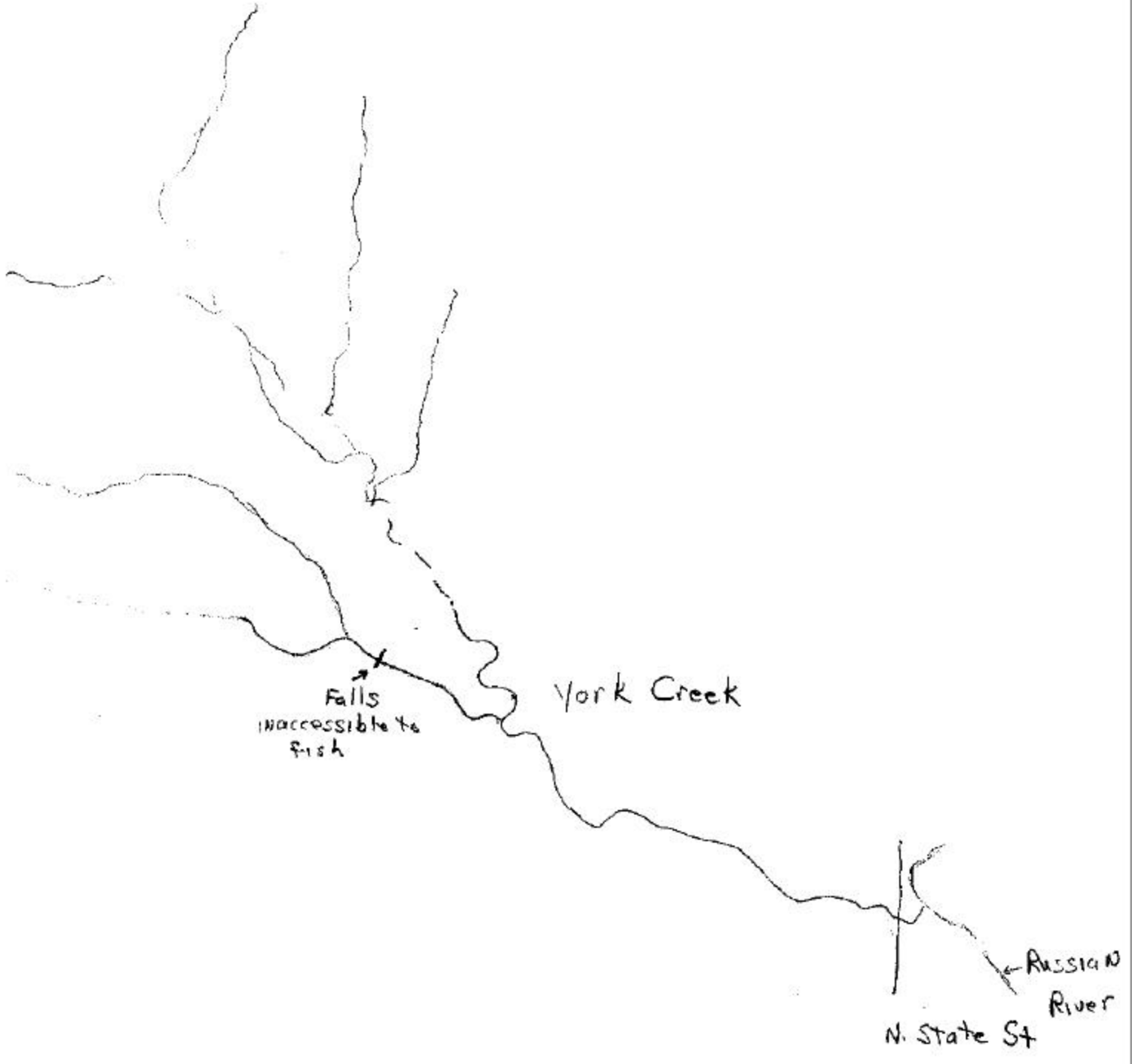
OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - none known

OWNERSHIP - Most of this area is owned by the York brothers.

POSTED - This area is posted against trespass and hunting.

PAST STOCKING - unknown

GENERAL ESTIMATE & RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - York Creek is a good spawning area but relatively poor nursery. The fish are usually removed from here during the summer months by Fish Rescue crews and placed elsewhere, due to the lack of water except in a few scattered pools, below the falls. Continue to manage as a spawning and nursery area.



Falls
inaccessible to
fish

York Creek

Russian
River
N. State St